

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a first function in a first application and a second function in a second application, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period without the physical presence causing a function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated;

in ~~a~~the first application program, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information for the first function assigned to ~~associated with~~ the auxiliary control in the first application program; and

in ~~a~~the second application program different from the first application program, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said detecting, the second display widget providing status information for the second function assigned to ~~associated with~~ the auxiliary control in the second application program.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a multimedia function, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the multimedia function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with ~~for the~~ multimedia function assigned

to the auxiliary control, the status information identifying at least one of track name, track time remaining, track length, album title and album length in a multimedia application.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of displaying further includes displaying a multimedia control panel.

Claims 9-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a function of switching focus between currently running applications, a method comprising the steps of:

while a first currently running application is in focus, detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the function of switching focus to another currently running application assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the function assigned to the auxiliary control, the status information identifying each of the currently running applications.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of ~~placing an identified a second currently running application in the foreground of the display screen, responsive to a user's selection of the application using~~ user activating the auxiliary control to switch focus to the second currently running application.

Claim 14 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a function of showing a task bar, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the function of showing the task bar assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the function of showing the task bar assigned to the auxiliary control, the status information including ~~a~~ the task bar.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period in which the auxiliary control has not been activated while displaying the first display widget ~~in the first context~~; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the physical presence.

Claims 16-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the auxiliary control is one of a button or a key.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the physical presence is a hand of a user.

Claim 20-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a first function in a first application and a second function in a second application, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing a function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the function assigned to the

auxiliary control, wherein a type of status information ~~associated with~~for the first function assigned to the auxiliary control displayed when a first application program is active is different from a type of status information ~~associated with~~for the second function assigned to the auxiliary control displayed when a second application program is active.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a messaging related function, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the messaging related function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~for the messaging related function assigned to the auxiliary control, wherein the status information ~~is messaging related information including~~includes one of the number of new or unread regular or high priority messages, an in box window, brief information regarding at least one of the most recently received messages, and alert status.

Claim 30 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a web browsing function, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the web browsing function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~for the web browsing function assigned to the auxiliary control, wherein ~~when a web browser is an active application program,~~ the status information includes at least one of the most recently used searches, at least one of the

most recently obtained search results, identification of previous and next web pages which may be visited, list of favorite web pages, and current page loading information.

Claims 31-33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a function of pasting contents of a clipboard, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the function of pasting contents of the clipboard assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the function of pasting contents of the clipboard assigned to the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies the contents of a the clipboard.

Claim 35 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the auxiliary control being assigned a save function while in a document, a method comprising the steps of:

while in a document, detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the save function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the save function assigned to the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies at least one of time, date, location, file type and size of most recently saved ~~file~~ for the document.

Claim 36 (previously presented): In a computer system having an auxiliary control assigned a mathematical function in an application and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a selection of a range of cells in the application;

while the cells are selected, detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period without the physical presence causing the mathematical function assigned to the auxiliary control to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information ~~associated with~~ for the mathematical function assigned to the auxiliary control, wherein ~~the auxiliary control is a key representing a mathematical operator, and in a spreadsheet application, the status information identifies the a result if the mathematical operator is function would be applied to data in a spreadsheet~~ the selected cells.

Claims 37-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the first display widget and the second display widget are different.

Claim 49-50 (canceled)